A&E

Rhona Bitner: Resound

Rao ’24 discusses the new Wellin Museum of Art’s exhibit. **page 9**

SPORTS

NESCAC Fantasy League

Jorgenson ’24 and Warlick ’24 introduce a new NESCAC-specific platform for Fantasy enthusiasts. **page 12**

NEWS

42 New Faculty Members

Madden ’26 looks into the College’s new hires, many of whom come from larger institutions. **page 2**

The Spectator

Thursday, September 14, 2023
Volume LXVI
Number II

Publishing the Truth, From Good Motives and For Justifiable Ends

Parkhurst aims to fix campus dining problems

by Mia Antonini ’26
STAFF WRITER

Parkhurst Dining now oversees dining on the Hamilton campus. New changes in the dining halls are capturing Hamilton’s attention as students settle this fall.

Dining is a key component of the Hamilton experience, helping students stay energized for the day and acting as a space for them to take a break during their rigorous daily schedules. All students are required to pay for a campus meal plan (unless they are granted an exemption for medical or religious reasons), adding yet another layer to students’ interest in the changes the new service will bring.

The school officially transitioned from Bon Appetit Management Company to Parkhurst Dining after an intensive search process. Five dining providers, including Bon Appetit, submitted proposals in a bidding process to become Hamilton’s vendor.

Parkhurst ultimately won the bidding war. A key component of Parkhurst Dining as noted on their website is “authentic culinary experiences” with “fresh, wholesome and hand-crafted” food. The company serves both corporations and educational institutions, like colleges and universities; the Pittsburgh Penguins, Mount Saint Mary College and the University of New England are among their client list.

“The Parkhurst brand was founded by chefs, so passion and expertise for food is at the core of what our Team Members do each day, and how we do it. We believe deeply in the value of food that is made-from-scratch and prepared in smaller batches, and consciously sourcing ingredients and products that are local, unique, and aligned with our own values,” Tony Williams, Senior General Manager of Parkhurst, told *The Spectator*.

Parkhurst turned to feedback from the Hamilton community, from both administrators and students, to decide which aspects of Hamilton dining they hope to improve, change or keep the same.

“From those insights, we’re really focused on consistent food quality from meal-to-meal and bringing our passion for made-from-scratch food to Hamilton, improving the speed of service to help mitigate lines, investing the equipment and physical build-out of the dining spaces for a better experience and increasing the variety of menu offerings featured across the five locations,” Williams said.

A new vendor brings new staff to campus, so many students were relieved to also see familiar faces working at the dining halls this semester. “We’re thrilled to have so many team members returning to Hamilton Dining, as well as welcoming many new faces that help us reach being fully-staffed,” Williams said. As outlined in an investigative piece published in May 2022 by *The Spectator*, many dining hall workers reported feeling overwhelmed by an understaffed environment, particularly, in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. Parkhurst’s emphasis on hiring new staff could lessen stress on individual workers and create a more efficient system for all community members coming into the college’s dining halls.

“The transition also paved the way for promoting some Team Members from last year, and we’re looking forward to helping them continue to grow!” he explained. Williams said that all team members underwent training modules regarding customer service, communication, culinary processes, and more.

Opinions on Parkhurst Dining have been mixed, although a few notice a significant change. Sarah White ’26 said, “I think they have more fresh fruit, but overall it feels pretty similar.” Fresh fruit has been a visible addition to Hamilton’s dining halls, with bowls of fresh pears, peaches, apples and more on display, as well as the additions of strawberries and blueberries in the yogurt section of Commons Dining Hall.

Among other changes, the mushroom and pepper sauté station is no longer present, though the familiar black bean burgers remain on, an especially valuable staple for students with dietary restrictions. Some other recent additions are revamped McEwen U-Cook stations, mints set up by dining hall exits and Pepsi as the new “primary beverage vendor,” as announced by Lucy Burke, Director of Procurement and Administrative Services, in a community-wide email in late August.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Alex, Hamilton’s mascot, grabs pizza in Commons, one of the central dining halls on campus.

But some students do notice a difference. Compared to last year, Kevin Pillsbury ’26 noted, “There are less options which makes some days worse. But when the days are good, nothing from last year can match.”

Hamilton is not the only institution changing up their dining services. Lafayette College also switched from Bon Appetit Management Company to Parkhurst Dining, starting in the 2023-24 academic year. As outlined in Lafayette’s campus paper, *The Lafayette*, students expressed concern with the college’s meal swipe program, lack of options for students with dietary restrictions and less access to produce; students plan to bring Parkhurst a petition to bring these issues to the vendor’s attention. No such petition has been created at Hamilton at this point.

42 new faculty join the Hamilton community

by Sarafina Madden ’26
STAFF WRITER

Hamilton welcomed a wave of 42 new professors to campus to fill its classrooms this year. Ranging from departments such as physics, mathematics and economics to women and gender studies, philosophy and religious studies, new faculty members have integrated themselves into just about every department on campus.

Many of Hamilton’s new faculty members come with backgrounds working in the bustling hubs of large research institutions. Coming from graduate programs at schools such as UCLA, University of Denver and Stanford, these new faculty members transitioned to Hamilton, a cozy cluster of buildings, nestled in the pastoral farmland of upstate NY. These new professors face transition just like new students, as they find their footing in Hamilton’s tight-knit academic community.

One new faculty member, Saber Ahmed, is a visiting professor of mathematics and statistics. With an undergraduate degree in chemistry and mathematics, and PhD in Mathematics, Professor Ahmed’s research focuses primarily on the structures involved in “supermathematics.”

Professor Ahmed said he took the job at Hamilton because he wanted to work and grow in a new space and found the sense of community in the Mathematics and Statistics Department particularly compelling. At first, he felt nervous about living in a rural area like Clinton without an urban metropolis nearby. However, he said he saw it as “a new experience worth having,” the logic many Hamilton students hailing from bigger cities likely followed when they decided to join the community. Professor Ahmed joined the College from a large research university where he was teaching classes of 40-70 students. Reflecting on his experience, Professor Ahmed shared his appreciation for Hamilton’s sense of community, something he had not found during his time in larger research universities.

Ahmed is not alone. At the most recent faculty meeting, Dean of Faculty Ngonidzashe Munemo shared the results of the COACHE survey conducted from 2017-2018, revealing that 32% of faculty members mentioned geographic location as the worst aspect of teaching at Hamilton. It is clear faculty members, old and new, share feelings about Hamilton’s rural location.

However, Ahmed is also not alone in his excitement about the sense of community Hamilton offers. 72% of faculty members who took part in the survey determined the quality of students as the best part of working at Hamilton. Irrespective of their qualms about Hamilton’s geography, faculty relate in their appreciation for the quality of Hamilton’s student body and the community they create.

Freshening their departments with new hires, these 42 faculty members bring new areas of expertise to their departments. Professor Kaplan, for example, energizes the Women and Gender Studies Department with their interests in the relationship between visual culture and coloniality of gender. Pioneering different academic approaches, new professors like Kaplan bring fresh insight and possibility for innovation to campus.

Another new professor, Dr. Kahrl, intends to establish an undergraduate research group centered on the reproductive physiology of frogs and salamanders as she joins the Biology Department.

In the expanding Italian Department, Professor Di Blasio comes to Hamilton with interests in representations of migration in Italian literature, bringing civic minded interests to the forefront of the department.

This wave of younger professors infuses a fresh intellectual spirit into Hamilton’s lecture halls, research labs and classrooms. As they aim to immerse themselves in Hamilton’s academic community, new professors bring a spirited eagerness to engage with students and improve their departments.

These new faculty members bring new voices, perspectives and expertise to campus, marking a period of transition in Hamilton history. They come in the wake of many faculty resignations. Last spring, nine faculty members resigned, many of whom were people of color or female-identifying. Hamilton administration faced vacancies across departments. These new faculty members arrive at a key time of transition among faculty.

New professors have the opportunity to restructure and define the pedagogy and approaches of departments across campus. Unfettered by precedent or entrenchment in department tradition, new faculty members can serve as agents for change and transformation to Hamilton’s academic community.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Professor Saber Ahmed is a new Visiting Professor of Mathematics and Statistics.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Dr. Ariel Kahrl is a Visiting Professor of Biology who researches animal evolution.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Dr. Federica de Blasio joins Hamilton as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Italian Studies.

Language Center moves to a new location

by Catherine Vogt '24
STAFF WRITER

This past summer, the Language Center moved from the third floor of Christian A. Johnson Hall (CJ) to CJ 102. The Language Center's location in CJ is deliberate, as CJ is home to the Language Department and the Office of Global Learning. The new space fosters a collaborative academic environment with natural light, two iMacs, closed-off study spaces and a kitchen with refreshments.

The Language Center offers students academic support in Arabic, Chinese, Classical Greek, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Spanish and Russian. Students can book individual hour-long sessions or recurring one-hour sessions with one of 18 peer tutors through TracCloud, Hamilton's tutoring scheduling program. All peer tutors are students with extensive experience and skill in the language they tutor. Students can choose what topics they would like to focus on in their sessions, and can include grammar, test review, conversation practice, reading and listening comprehension and short presentation preparation.

PHOTO BY CATHERINE VOGT

Students can find resources for their courses in the newly renovated language center.

Spanish tutor Hannah Lipskar '25 said that she enjoys tutoring at the Language Center because "when I first began learning Spanish, I struggled with a lot of the ways that I was taught. I hope to show other students the ways in which I was able to figure out Spanish so that they can feel confident in speaking and understanding a new language."

Language Center Coordinator Rachel Martinie noted that in addition to offering peer tutoring, "the Language Center is the meeting place for many language TA sessions and where students complete in lab writing assignments and work individually and in groups on assignments such as dubbing or other multimedia projects for their language courses." Moreover, language faculty technology workshops are held in the Language Center along with lunch time language pedagogy roundtables.

The Language Center is open Sunday through Thursday from 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to respect discretion, *The Spectator* and Campus Safety have not disclosed the idenities of the students involved in these reports.

Thurs., Sept. 7

8:11 a.m. Area Check—Woollcott House

12:30 Fire Alarm—Bundy West Residence Hall

8:47 Complaint—South Campus

Sat., Sept. 9

3:02 a.m. Suspicious Activity—North Campus

9:36 a.m. Medical Emergency—South Campus

11:59 a.m. Medical Emergency—Campus Road Athletic Fields

12:58 p.m. Motorist Assist—Parking Lots : Majmacminor Lot

4:21 p.m. Medical Emergency—Other

10:45 p.m. Medical Emergency—North Residence Hall

11:27 p.m. Noise Complaint—South Campus

Sun., Sept. 10

12:51 a.m. Medical Emergency—North Campus

2:01 a.m. Assist—South Campus

5:43 p.m. Area Check—Johnson Center for Health and Wellness

11:18 p.m. Trouble Alarm—Days-Massolo Center

11:21 p.m. Trouble Alarm—Days Massolo Center

Mon., Sept. 11

1:09 a.m. Trouble Alarm—Milbank Residence Hall

1:35 a.m. Trouble Alarm—Milbank Residence Hall

1:37 a.m. Trouble Alarm—Days-Massolo Center

4:43 p.m. Trouble Alarm—Tolles Pavilion

10:20 p.m. Assist—Milbank Residence Hall

11:42 p.m. Area Check—South Campus

11:48 p.m. Fire Alarm—Woolcott House

Tues., Sept. 12

9:30 p.m. Fire Alarm–Glenview-A

Wed., Sept. 13

3:08 a.m. Area Check—Milbank Residence Hall

9:06 a.m. Fire Alarm—Glenview-A

Dear Hamilton Community,

We hope everyone is acclimating well to the rhythm of the new academic year, and we are delighted and eager to maintain coverage of all things happening within the campus community. We have some exciting stories in the pages ahead, including a rare guest contribution from some students over at Bowdoin who are promoting the creation of a first-ever NESCAC fantasy league platform. Euphoria is back for those in the Class of 2024 who remember Dov's charming smoothie shop, and in this issue we include a rating of every bubble tea available—sip away! We hope you enjoy perusing our other stories, and before our next issue arrives, be sure to check out some events that are happening across campus within the next week, such as "The Jewish World of Alexander Hamilton" event taking place in the chapel on Sept. 19 at 7:00 p.m. as well as guest speaker Ilya Budraitksis's lecture "The Features of the New State Ideology in Russia" in KJ 202 on Sept. 20 at 4:10 p.m.

We have received a tremendous amount of applications to join our team this year, especially from first-year students, and we are excited to share more stories from fresh voices in the issues ahead. And, if you are open to pursuing a different kind of opportunity within the paper, *The Spec* has just opened applications for our long-form investigative team, where we work collaboratively as a group to produce in-depth research and uncover crucial findings pertaining to the Hamilton community. Consider applying if you are interested in picking up some serious journalistic skills and knowledge, or if you have a good scoop!

If you are interested in writing, editing or photographing for *The Spectator*, we would love to have you. Please email us at spec@hamilton.edu to get in touch.

Sincerely yours,
The Spectator

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Celebrating 157 years,
we *were first published as* The Hamilton Campus *in 1866.*

The Spectator

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The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national, and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college, and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

About Us

The Hamilton College Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. For more information e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. Our offices are located on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

September 14, 2023

Letter to the Editor: AHI's The Enquiry

ENQUIRY

free thought and discourse

Dear Hamilton Community,

The Alexander Hamilton Institute is a national organization founded by three professors and is located down the Hill in Clinton. The Enquiry is a periodical that promotes free thought and open discourse amongst students and faculty alike at Hamilton College. Established in 2013 by Paul Carrier and Joe Simonson, the publication is sponsored by The Alexander Hamilton Institute (AHI) Undergraduate Fellows, a student led organization on campus.

I really appreciated the conversation between Tom Vilsack and G.T. Thompson at the Common Ground event. The "Peanut Butter Jelly" story, told by Vilsack, about Thompson and President Joe Biden, was not only humorous but a gesture from which we can all learn. In an age of social media and algorithms, it is very easy to get trapped in echo chambers which affirm existing political beliefs. The goal of the Enquiry, much like the Common Ground program, is for students to accept disagreements between each other to promote intellectual diversity. In such a polarizing political environment, making personal connections (like the peanut butter jelly story) with one another is the first step to finding true common ground.

At its heart, the Enquiry publishes to tell a story. We print opinionated articles covering just about anything, including art, politics, economics and issues relevant to life on the Hill. We ask that submissions are well written and sincere. The publication strives to encourage intellectual diversity and opposes narrow-mindedness. The articles do not need to align with the beliefs of myself, other members nor the three founders but should promote diverse discussion amongst the student body here on the Hill. If you see me around campus, I am eager and open to discussing this organization's past, as well as its current and continuing evolution. Our goal for this publication is to push for a future where every voice is welcome in open dialogue.

The Enquiry accepts articles of 500 to 800 words at theahi@hamilton.edu. Please be aware that we do not accept anonymous submissions.

Sincerely,

Jack Jee '24
President, Alexander Hamilton Institute (AHI) Undergraduate Fellows

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR.COM

The Alexander Hamilton Institute Undergraduate Fellows collaborate with the AHI's local headquarters found down College Hill Road right along the main Clinton Village Green. In years past, Hamilton students of all class years have worked with the Alexander Hamilton Institute down the Hill. The Enquiry is a publication of the AHI Undergraduate Fellows that covers student opinion on a variety of issues.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEXANDER HAMILTON INSTITUTE

The Alexander Hamilton Institute and its work is inspired by its namesake's influential life and legacy.

Trying every Euphoria bubble tea flavor

by Mikaella Tortusa '25
FEATURES EDITOR

For those unaware, Euphoria Coffee soft launched last week. Located in Sadove, Euphoria currently offers a limited selection of foods and drinks but plans to expand the menu soon. The most popular (and exciting) menu item is the bubble tea. The available flavors include black milk tea, matcha green tea, taro, Thai and coconut. With tapioca pearls as an optional addition and the choice between whole, almond and oat milk, customers have some customization options. Customers can also choose whether they want their bubble tea the traditional way, served hot or blended like a frappe. The basic medium-sized bubble tea with whole milk and no tapioca pearls is $4.26. With tapioca, it will be $5.45. As an avid and life-long bubble tea enjoyer, I made it my mission to try every flavor offered by Euphoria and report my opinions!

Black Milk Tea

The flavor of the black milk bubble tea was subtle but pretty accurate to the flavor of black tea. I accidentally ordered it blended instead of traditional, and while I found the texture unusual at first, the actual taste did not seem affected. It had a pleasant aftertaste and was not as sweet as the other flavors on this list. Overall, I found the black milk bubble tea refreshing and quite unoffensive. I reccomend this option for people who want a less sweet option or a drink that tastes more like actual tea.

Matcha Green Tea

The matcha bubble tea was easily my second favorite out of all the options. It is accurate to the matcha flavor, not overly sweet and has the perfect color. The drink is light and refreshing, though less so than the black milk tea. It is a delicious drink, and I reccomend that everyone try the matcha at least once.

Taro

I loved the taro. As a lifelong ube fan who transitioned to taro because it is far more accessible in America, I have pretty high standards for purple flavors, and Euphoria exceeded my expectations. The taro bubble tea is sweet but not cloying, creamy but not milky. I prefer it with the tapioca pearls for extra texture, but the drink is perfect on its own as well. If you are unsure which bubble tea to order, pick taro.

Thai

While the taro bubble tea is my favorite from Euphoria, Thai bubble tea is my favorite of all time. Over the summer, I ordered Thai boba exclusively from authentic Thai restaurants instead of boba shops, so I have high expectations. Unfortunately, I was not impressed with Euphoria's Thai bubble tea. In fact, it was my least favorite out of all the flavors which disappointed me. While the color is perfect, the drink is too milky and very sweet. I could barely taste the unique flavor of Thai bubble tea because the milk overpowered it. The tapioca pearls were also very squishy, but their size and taste were fine. I would not necessarily recommend the Thai bubble tea, but if you'd like to try it, try substituting the whole milk with oat or almond milk, so the drink tastes less sweet and milky.

Coconut

Coconut is a seasonal flavor, so now is your chance to try it while you can! The coconut bubble tea was very sweet, probably the sweetest out of all the flavors. However, I loved the actual flavor of the coconut and appreciated the unique flavor. I grew up eating coconuts picked fresh from the tree in my backyard, so my coconut standards are also high, and most American coconut flavored items disappoint me—but not Euphoria's bubble tea. The drink is refreshing and fun. If you can handle extremely sweet drinks, try the coconut bubble tea!

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKAELLA TORTUSA '25

The blended matcha green bubble tea is a delicious and refreshing menu item.

And those are all the flavors! I can say that I had a great time trying them all, though I am sure my sugar levels doubled. My key takeaways are that Euphoria has affordable yet high-quality bubble teas with delicious flavors. Even the Thai tea and the coconut tasted rich and not watered down at all. The owners put a lot of care into their work, and all the employees have been very nice to me. I will definitely consume more taro bubble tea in the future in addition to the affordable iced coffee and tasty mac n' cheese. If you have the time, make sure to check out what Euphoria has to offer!

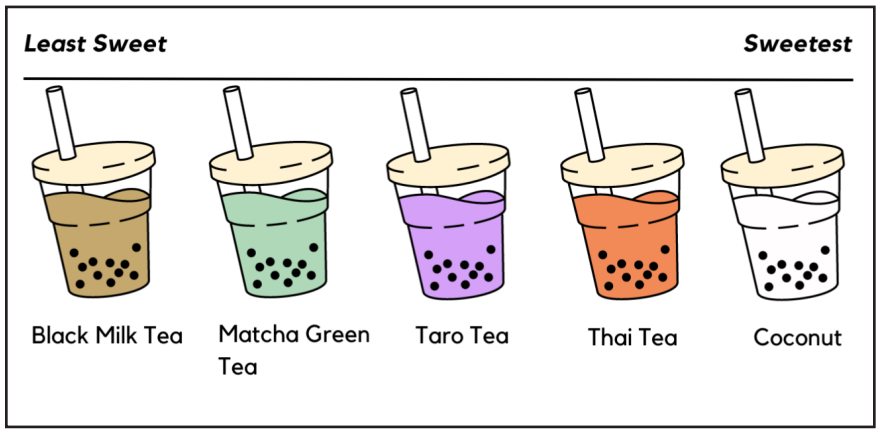

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKAELLA TORTUSA '25

Tortusa '25 organizes the Euphoria bubbles from least to most sweet.

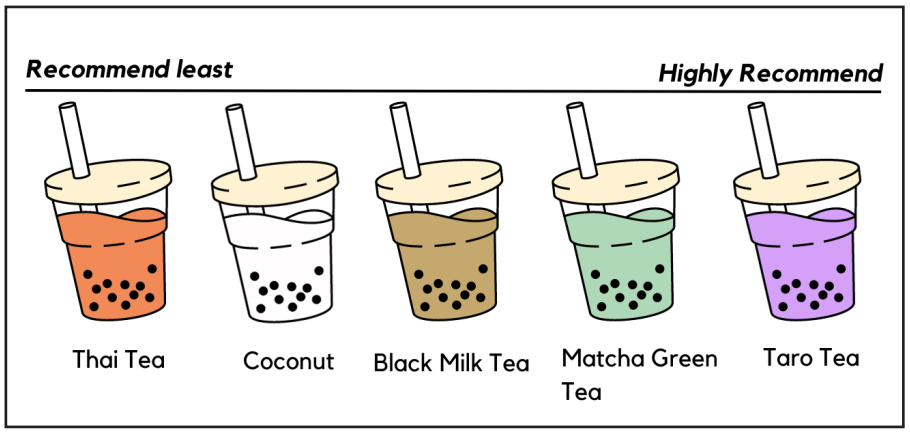

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKAELLA TORTUSA '25

The Euphoria bubble teas are organized from least recomended to highly recommended.

by Sextator
RESIDENT HOE-OLOGIST

When I entered college, I did not set high expectations for my sex life. I never had a boyfriend in high school, and the furthest I went was holding hands with a boy in the dark after Robotics Club. I figured that the realm of sex was out of my reach, and that it was better to focus on academics instead of entering a half-baked situationship with my Bio 100 lab partner or that really hot guy I sat next to in Anthro 113. But all my friends had Tinder, so I tried it too, and after three failed dates with two nice girls and a pretty average guy, I felt pretty dejected. Was this all the Hamilton dating pool had to offer me? Or was I really not meant for the relationship life?

In a moment of panic and bad decision making, I met up with a senior in the bathroom of Tolles Pavilion. We had met through Jodel, and it was exhilarating in the moment because it felt like a real experience, one where I was doing something I probably should not be. The regret would come in droves later on, but in the moment, I knew it would be a formative memory. I remember returning to my small Dunham double afterwards, feeling numb and a little empty. During the next few months, I would try to avoid the guy like the plague which proved useless considering we happened to be in Commons at the same time almost every day. When he graduated, I felt so relieved. Looking back on that experience almost three years later, I thought about things I would do differently.

Firstly, I would not have met up with someone through Jodel. The anonymity was exciting but ultimately a mistake. I know people joke about hooking up on Jodel, and it does happen, but it often does not end well. It did not help that I was a freshman and he was a senior, and he even said that he would not normally go for someone so young. I felt used, but I was also aware that I had agency and consciously made the decision. I fully consented, and yet, regretted it the moment it happened.

Secondly, I should have waited. I did not need to rush the process, but the pressure and FOMO from seeing all my friends do fun and exciting stuff definitely got to me. I was jealous of my friends getting into relationships their freshman fall, and I was lonely, depressingly so. I tried to hide it and pretend that I did not care about relationships, but it is hard to not care when you are the seventh wheel in a friend group.

Thirdly, and probably most importantly, consent can be retracted at any time. I do not blame the guy for what happened at all, and I really consented in the beginning. But feeling uncomfortable definitely ruined the vibes for me, and he could probably tell as well. He did offer to reciprocate, which was nice, but after he talked about his sword (literally and figuratively) for an hour, I was simply not in the mood.

For all my freshmen out there, remember that love and sex and relationships are not necessary in college. If you want those things, you can probably find them. If you do not, that is completely okay too. And if you are feeling discouraged, try to focus and work on yourself before going out into the world. Otherwise, you just might succumb to the first guy you meet on Jodel. I unfortunately did not learn these lessons even after the Jodel incident, and had a hoe phase, but the hoe phase provides lots of content for this section.

Today, I am in a loving relationship of six months with a guy who truly understands and cares for me. I am glad I waited for him, and I feel a lot more mature and confident in myself.

"The Spectator between the sheets" is a weekly sex column sharing intimate experiences, advice and opinions. If you would like to contribute, email featspec@hamilton.edu.

Weekly Unsolicited

by Candidus
RESIDENT VOICE OF WISDOM

The "Weekly Unsolicited" features advice that no one asked for, but everyone needs.

1. Floss everyday. Too many people forget to floss and even more forget to get their bi-annual dental cleaning. Gently brush your gums and brush your teeth every day, please. Take care of your teeth and gum health because dental care is essential.

2. If your phone keeps distracting you from doing your homework, lock your phone in a drawer. If that does not work, find a long piece of ribbon or a spare scarf and tie your leg to your chair. You can release yourself when you are done with your work. If you are truly too attached to your phone, ask a friend or roommate to spray you with water or gently slap you whenever you distract yourself. Phone obsession is a real thing, and you have to work to get rid of it.

3. Fix your sleep schedule. Simply do not get insomnia. Sleep before or by midnight. Wake up at least an hour before your first class or at least get out of bed by 9:00 a.m. A good sleep schedule is key to a healthy life. You are an adult, and you know how to take care of yourself. Do it.

4. The order in which you eat your food is important. Eating fruits around 30 minutes before your meal will help with digestion and the absorption of simple sugars. Fruits in general should be staples in your diet, and Commons and McEwen do a good job with their fruit offerings. Aside from dietary or preferential restrictions, there are not many reasons to avoid fruits.

5. If you live in a dorm with blinds (like Babbitt or Milbank), the orientation of your blinds matter. Flipping them upwards (with the "inside" of the blinds facing you) during the day will help cool your room and make the room darker. Flipping them downwards (the "outside" of the blinds facing you) will direct more light into the floor of your room which will create more light and provide warmth. Orient the blinds upwards when it is hot and downwards when it is cold.

Thinking about declaring a double major? Maybe you should reconsider.

by Sarafina Madden '26
STAFF WRITER

"Do you know what you're majoring in yet?"— is the all too familiar question we perpetually face, especially us sophomores on the brink of a day we can no longer push off as a distant date far in the future. It is the classic zinger we all desperately cling to in those awkward silences during lunches with a new friend or in the time left-over between group work and the resumption of a professor's lecture.

Arriving at Hamilton, I had big dreams: "Neuroscience and Government," "Literature and History" and even "Biology and Public Policy"—I have given a bazillion different responses to the infamous "major question," trying on different combinations for size. As the three words rolled off my tongue, I'd get a little buzz of adrenaline, basking in the glorious prowess of being a double-majorer. I loved adding that little "and X major." It had such a prestigious ring to it. But alas, after my career as an intended double-majorer, I've decided to hang up this distant dream. I'm just a "majorer" now, leaving behind my pride and embracing the offerings of a liberal arts education.

In the name of "rigor," college students across the nation are opting to double major, bereaving themselves of the knowledge and value that comes with diverse coursework. Rather than forcing yourself to fit into a second major, Hamilton students should consider honing their focus to one major and making use of Hamilton's liberal arts promise. Take classes in dance, music, sociology, philosophy and neuroscience. Diversify your coursework and relish in the knowledge that comes from exposure to disparate disciplines and perspectives. The solutions of tomorrow will only find resolutions through the work of varied disciplines.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

The Elihu Root House hosts the Registrar's office—the office that handles declaring majors and minors.

PHOTO BY KORRIN RICHARDS

The Hamilton Career Center unites students and advisors to discuss majors, minors and potential career choices.

Embedded in every social problem lies economic, anthropologic and even artistic questions. Narrowing your curriculum will only serve to limit the scope of your knowledge and ability to confront problems in your career and civic life. Forcing yourself to fit the constraints of an additional major robs you of the joy that comes from drawing connections between polarized fields of knowledge. You might be thinking, as I used to, that double majoring gives you more bang for your buck—getting "two for the price of one" type of logic. Soldiering through the often dry prerequisites for two majors surely will not earn you more return on your investment. Experimentation, tailoring a curriculum to your varied interests, making your education playful and, God forbid, fun? That's more like it.

Practically speaking, that second major will not dazzle your future employers in the way you might think. An array of diverse coursework, showcasing your ability in different fields and overall versatility? That is compelling. Employers want creative thinkers, strong communicators and clever problem-solvers–these skills will emerge if you engage with Hamilton's liberal arts curriculum and test your abilities through a range of coursework. Moreover, a diverse curriculum will show employers your appreciation for schools of thought that extend beyond your immediate interests.

Join me as a "majorer" by leaning into the strengths of Hamilton's wide range of fascinating coursework and allowing yourself to experience the joys of intellectual exploration.

The Wellin welcomes *Rhona Bitner: Resound*

by Katie Rao '24
A&E CONTRIBUTER

From awe-inspiring acrobatic feats to uninhabited performance venues, The Wellin Museum of Art's *Rhona Bitner: Resound*, explores the collection elements that make up the performing arts. Marking Bitner's first museum survey, the Wellin's exhibition brings together the artist's works from the last three decades — with themes of music, theater and performance permeating throughout the show.

Rhona Bitner: Resound demonstrates the artist's interest in joining the visual and performing arts. She envisions the camera lens and the performer's stage as two apertures through which one can interpret the world around them. Featuring a number of Bitner's photographic series, the exhibition showcases the various ways the artist examines performance.

Photographs from her series *Stage* consider solemn still stages. Images from this collection capture the stage either before the curtains rose or after they fell, gesturing toward a feeling of anticipation and expectation. Meanwhile, a smaller, diligently arranged set of images brings forth the performers. Bitner's *Circus* series portrays American and European circus acts of the late twentieth century. In the midst of action, illuminated circus entertainers seize the spotlight, standing out against a black backdrop. Images from her series *Pointe* take a different approach, while still starkly contrasting her subject against the background. This ongoing series depicts the worn pointe-shoes of professional ballet dancers, rather than the dancers themselves, to fashion "portraits" of ballerinas. Turning her attention toward the patrons of performance, Bitner's most recent series, *Tour*, seeks to bridge the realms of live performance and fandom. She captures throngs of energetic spectators enjoying performances, conferring the importance of the audience in the history of performance, not just the performers.

Occupying the whole of the back wall, selected works from Bitner's *Listen* series feature photographs of 395 vacant music venues from across the United States. Over 13 years, Bitner traveled to 89 cities to create her indexical collection of American rock 'n' roll history and landscape. Rather than look at contemporary performance, rendering physical bodies participating in the art, Bitner investigates the history of performance. While initially it might seem that Bitner's *Listen* series functions as a historical index of American musical and cultural history alone, the body of work goes beyond sole documentation. Her works contain a two-pronged sense of absence — the absence of figures and the absence of sound — yet one can imagine that these spaces were once filled with both. The absence empowers the imagination to occupy this space; viewers' individual memories mingle with the collective memory of American musical history captured on film by Bitner.

Together with these longstanding projects are two personal series, *Headshot* and *Ghost Light*. The former presents the head of one of Bitner's oldest childhood toys: a stuffed clown. Printed on traditionally sized 8x10 paper, the same size as an actor's headshot, Bitner photographs a subject characteristic of her body of work. *Ghost Light* echoes the work of artists who sought to capture their transforming cities, like Eugene Atget and Berenice Abbott. The advent of the 2020 lockdown inspired Bitner to photograph New York City's vacant streets.

Toward the end of the exhibition, visitors can enter the immersive and interactive WellinWorks space. The area integrates the themes of Bitner's work with an invitaton for guests to engage in a hands-on experience. Visitors are welcome to compose storyboards and design their own postcards. Across the room, visitors can take a seat in the listening room to tune into select songs curated by Bitner. Finally, the museum features its very own stage where guests are encouraged to partake in the world of performance.

Spanning from her 1990s Cibachrome prints to her more recent chromogenic and digital prints, the Wellin's exhibition of Bitner's visually complex images have much to offer. Bitner's work provides fertile ground for nuanced discussion surrounding the performing arts, photography, music and more.
Rhona Bitner: Resound will be on display at the Wellin Museum of Art from Sept. 9 to Dec. 9.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Rhona Bitner's exhibit will be showing in the Wellin until Dec. 9, 2023.

Family YouTuber arrested for child abuse

by Lily Rizzoli '24
MANAGING EDITOR

About two weeks ago in Utah, a 12-year-old boy escaped from his home through a window and ran to his neighbor's house. The boy appeared malnourished and had duct tape wrapped around his ankles. He asked his neighbor for water, food and help. The neighbor immediately contacted the police. The boy's mother was arrested and has been charged with six counts of felony child abuse. As it turns out, she is a relatively well-known influencer.

The child was Mason Franke, one of six children of Ruby Franke, a popular family style vlogger and "momfluencer" who ran a YouTube channel called 8 Passengers which she started in 2015. The family influencer trend has been prevalent for some time now. Other notable family influencers include the LaBrant Family and the ACE family, both of whom have come under fire for their parenting practices and the alleged exploitation of their children for views.

The 8 Passengers channel outlined the Frankes' family life, mormon practices and strict parenting tactics. Since the arrest, the account has been deleted by YouTube. The streaming site stated the termination of the channel came "in accordance with [their] creator responsibility guidlines." Franke's channel had over 2.5 million viewers before it was banned. Franke's business partner, Jodi Hildebrandt, was also charged with six counts of child abuse.

Unfortunately, the allegations are not very surprising to many who have watched the Passenger 8 YouTube channel. Many viewers were made uncomfortable by Franke's unconventional parenting style. She frequently admitted to withholding food from her children until their chores were completed. In one video, Franke tells viewers that her kindergartener, who is in charge of packing her own lunch, had forgotten to do so. Franke explains that the child's teacher had called her and told her that her daughter did not have any food and was hungry. Franke stated, "I responded and just said Eve is responsible for making her lunches in the morning and she actually told me she did pack a lunch, so the natural outcome is she's just going to need to be hungry."

Franke also made her children maintain the mindset that nothing in life was theirs. The children were allocated no personal property. They can be seen discussing the fact that their bedrooms are not their own; they are their mother's rooms which they are permitted to use. Their clothes and phones are only lent to them by their parents, and are at risk of being taken away at any time. Not even their beds are sacred. In one video, Franke's oldest child, Chad, tells viewers that his mother took away his bed as punishment for playing a prank on his brother. Chad said that it had been seven months since she took it away, saying "I was sleeping on a beanbag since October." His mother laughed in response. Another video shows Franke refusing to wake her kindergartener up for school, saying that it is her responsobility to wake herself up. Franke's older daugther took it upon herself to wake, dress, and ready the kindergartener for school.

These videos did not go unnoticed. Franke's treatment of her children sparked concern in many viewers. In 2020, some viewers who were deeply worried created an online petition in order to bring attention, ideally from child protective services, to the videos. The petition gained over 18,000 signatures.

In the wake of the petition, Franke began posting less frequently. Soon, she entered into a business with Jodi Hildenbrandt, founder of ConneXions. They began making videos together discussing parenting and more hot topics. The two women would frequently come under fire for disturbing comments about their beliefs and what children owe their parents.

In the preliminary hearing on Sept. 6, many media streams crashed due to the overload of viewers who tuned in to watch. Recently, celebrity court hearings have been drawing much press. Both the Johnny Depp/Amber Heard case and the Gweneth Paltrow case were heavily streamed worldwide. It can be assumed this case too wil have much press and viewership as the horror of the family's stories unfold in court. Ruby Franke and Jodi Hildenbrandt's next hearing is scheduled for Sept. 21, 2023.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SPORTSKEEDA.COM

Ruby Franke and her family of eight, which she made a viral YouTube channel about.

September 14, 2023

Luka Dončić and the prodigy problem

by Pat Cleary '24
STAFF WRITER

This summer, the FIBA World Cup in the Philippines featured nations from across the globe, among them Slovenia. A country with a population of just 2 million reached the final round against titans such as the United States, Canada, and Serbia, all with rosters stacked with NBA talent. How many NBA players were on Slovenia's roster? One: 24-year-old prodigy Luka Dončić. From a young age, Dončić was destined for greatness. After winning the Euroleague MVP with Real Madrid in 2018, he was selected third overall in that year's NBA draft by the Dallas Mavericks. Since then, Dončić has become one of the NBA's brightest stars. In five seasons, he's eclipsed 27 points per game and been a member of the All-NBA First Team in four of five years. In spite of this, outside a conference finals appearance in 2022, the Mavericks' shelves are bare. Why haven't they won with Dončić?

It is possible that Dončić came into the league close to his peak already, but it still does not explain the lack of wins: two first round exits, one conference finals appearance, and the nadir of missing the play-in game this past season. It's clear Dončić can score big in the regular season but he has not been able to when it matters most. Keep in mind, this is not the stacked Western Conference of yesteryear. James Harden and Kevin Durant left the conference, LeBron James and Steph Curry got old and brittle, and Jamal Murray missed two seasons with an ACL injury. In all this time, how could Luka have not made an NBA Finals? There are critiques to his game (heliocentric, lack of defensive effort and poor conditioning). But none should be major obstacles to getting out of the Western Conference. Instead, the Mavericks are an example of a situation I like to call "The Prodigy Problem."

The term is a take on the famed "resource curse" phenomena. The resource curse describes a situation wherein a country is poor despite possessing oil or another valuable resource. This invariably leads to corruption and instability as there is no need to diversify the economy. Examples include Zambia with copper or Angola with oil. When an economy is heavily reliant on exporting a single resource, fluctuations in price can be catastrophic. It leads to underdevelopment of other sectors, and it can keep bad leadership in power due to the concentration of power in few hands.

What does this have to do with Dončić? Well, because a prodigy in any sport is a hot commodity. If a player can leapfrog the development path, it allows their team to compete for real prizes earlier and for longer. The Mavericks haven't had to wait for Dončić to develop like the Bucks or Nuggets had to with Giannis and Jokic. He was ready the second he stepped on an NBA court. Dončić's talent has let the Mavericks front office off the hook the last few years; they are content with the fact he will drag them to relevance. Additionally, his individual popularity has been good for business. The Mavericks will have 28 nationally televised games this season, eighth most among NBA teams and the most among teams who missed the playoffs last year. They've played in the pivotal Christmas Day block for three years straight after not appearing since 2011 in a finals rematch against the Miami Heat. Dončić's jersey is one of the highest selling in the league. What's there to complain about?

The problem isn't that Dončić works. It's that only Dončić works. He's so good that nothing else has to be. In 2021, Rick Carslile, championship coach for 13 years, left the team with two years left on his contract due to disputes with Dončić. The Mavericks have tried to find a real running mate for him (Kristaps Porzingis, Jalen Brunson, now Kyrie Irving) to no avail. They traded for Davis Bertans' horrible contract just to get rid of Porzingis's bad deal that they signed him to. This was after giving up assets for him while he was coming off an ACL injury. These kinds of moves should sink a franchise but Dončić's talents paper over the dysfunction. The front office shouldn't receive all the blame. Who should they share it with? Dončić.

The offense has to run through Dončić. He has led the league in shot attempts for the last two years and expects to handle the ball at all times. The consequence is that it leaves teammates on the three point line, watching him, hoping to receive a kickout pass for their rehearsed three point shot. They are not so much teammates as they are spectators who are occasionally asked to participate on offense, then expected to pick up his slack on defense. If they call him out, they'll be out just like Carslile. This is a fine model for January. It's quickly exposed come May.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

Luka Dončić of the Dallas Mavericks.

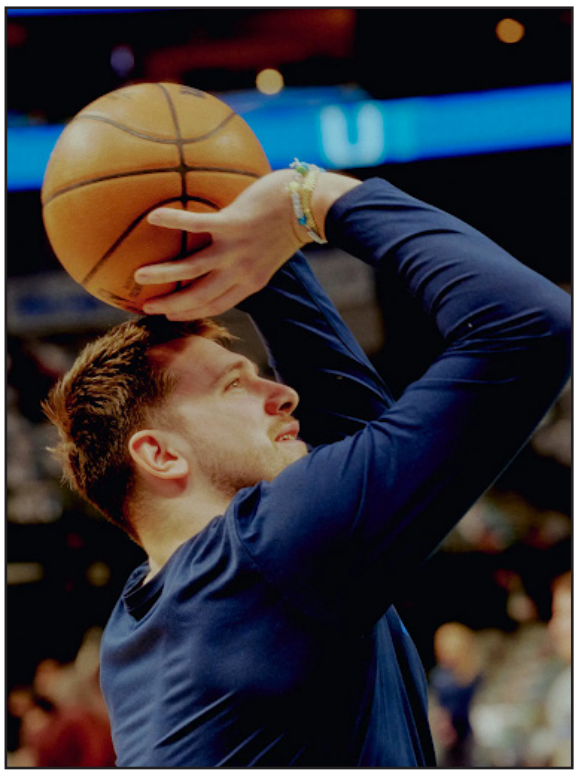

PHOTO COURTESY OF JAKE DOCKINS/NEW YORK TIMES

Despite Dončić's skill, the Mavericks have struggled to capitalize with successful seasons.

All of these problems culminated in last season when Dončić put on a show, reaching his highest career average ever of 32.4 points, only to be sidelined for 16 games due to injury and rest. At risk of missing the playoffs, they dealt critical role player Dorian Finney-Smith to acquire the talented but injury-prone Kyrie Irving. While the Mavericks seemed to improve, the lack of defense led to the team missing the playoffs for the first time since Dončić's rookie year. All of it a consequence of a team that had a superstar and then wasted his abilities. Where have we seen all this before?

There's a reason that ever since LeBron James languished on those early Cavaliers teams, he's chosen to ink shorter contracts even as he ages and his risk of injury increases and foresight would tell him to simply bank the money. Like Dončić, James was their meal ticket, and made up for the front office's bad signings and faulty decision-making. James knows that he has to keep constant pressure on his front office to build the best possible team around him. If they can only count on 1-2 guaranteed years of James and the guaranteed sell outs, national TV games and additional revenue he brings, ownership and the front office are going to do everything in their power to please him. In the long run, it doesn't make for the best team building structure, but it allowed James to captain his hometown team to four straight finals trips and one title.

The Mavericks are now on the verge of a season with an MVP-caliber Dončić, an aging and brittle Irving, and not much else. Such is life when one suffers from the prodigy problem.

Bowdoin students introduce a new NESCAC fantasy league platform

by Will Jorgensen ’24 and William Warlick ’24
GUEST WRITERS, BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Last spring, Bowdoin computer science majors Will Jorgensen ’24 and William Warlick ’24 embarked on what would become a transformative project: introducing fantasy sports to the NESCAC. Their vision was to create a platform where NESCAC football fans could delve into the thrilling world of fantasy football.

The idea came about last fall, when the pair lived in an apartment next to the football field. “We noticed the strong interest, particularly from parents and alumni, with fans of visiting teams driving to watch the games,” Jorgensen said. What started as just a concept then started to take shape over the subsequent months.

For Jorgensen, fantasy football is entirely new. With his sole experience in fantasy sports being Fantasy NASCAR, the project posed a significant learning challenge. “Given my limited background, there was a steep learning curve. I got advice from friends that play a lot of Fantasy,” he said.

Technical hurdles went beyond just the game’s structure. Both Warlick and Jorgensen had to learn to run a web server, manage databases and ensure robust data security on the fly.

The app, now resonating in the NESCAC community, is designed with the unique attributes of NESCAC football in mind. It facilitates the drafting of a 16-man roster and incorporates traditional features like waivers and trades. Adjustments had to be made to accommodate the 10-team NESCAC format, such as capping leagues at eight players to account for the much smaller player pool than traditional fantasy football and introducing individual defensive player drafts instead of team defenses.

Their Instagram, @fantasynescac, stands as evidence of the traction they’re gaining. As Warlick pointed out, “The growing community on our Instagram shows us that there is a lot of anticipation.” Moreover, the development journey was interspersed with unexpected collaborations. “We began receiving outreach from diehard NESCAC football fans interested in helping out as analysts,” Warlick explained, highlighting a particularly notable mock draft from Bowdoin student Sam Angevine ’24.

The platform gears up for its full-scale launch, with the draft feature set to roll out this week as the teams finalize their roster announcements. A specially designed player rating algorithm ensures fairness, drawing from previous performance data to aid users in their drafting decisions.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WILLIAM WARLICK '24

William Warlick ’24 and Will Jorgensen ’24 are the creators of the first-ever NESCAC fantasy league platform.

Feedback from the NESCAC community has been overwhelmingly positive. Messages brimming with enthusiasm, curiosity and valuable insights have underscored the app’s potential. Yet, both Jorgensen and Warlick have realistic expectations.

“While we’re hopeful, there’s always the possibility that the user uptake might not be super high in the first season. This project has been a great learning experience,” Jorgensen reflected. Those who are interested in learning more about Fantasy NESCAC and starting a league can do so at fantasynescac.com

PHOTO COURTESY OF COLLEGE JAGUAR

The NESCAC comprises 11 colleges: Williams, Amherst, Bowdoin, Middlebury, Tufts, Hamilton, Wesleyan, Colby, Bates, Trinity and Connecticut.